

STANLEY,

JANUARY 30th, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with my report for the year 1896, containing the amount of Sickness from Zymotic Diseases and Vital Statistics, with some account of the Sanitary Condition of the District.

## Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases have been fairly prevalent during the course of the year. The number of cases of notifiable Diseases reported to me amounted to 163, and the non-notifiable brought to my notice amounted to 166. The latter consisted of the following, viz : Measles, 132, and Whooping Cough, 34, and the former of Scarlatina, 133, Diphtheria, 6, Membranous Croup, 5, Enteric Fever, 8, Continued Fever, 1, Puerperal Fever, 1, and Erysipelas, 9. The total number of notifiable Diseases was 62 in excess of the year 1895, and the non-notifiable exceeded the previous year by 128.


**SCARLATINA** might be said to never have been entirely absent during the whole year. On three occasions infection was imported, to be followed by more cases, but by far the greater majority were the off-spring of an outbreak that began in July, 1895. The type generally was of a mild character, and in several instances the disease was not recognised during the early stage of the attack, and in that interval the mischief was being spread by those lightly held patients. Scarcely any part of the district escaped, but no real epidemic resulted even in the most populous centres. A marked decline was noticeable towards the end of the year. The apathy with which parents regard mild cases of Scarlatina, coupled with the long period of the convalescent stage, when although the patient is practically in good health, yet still suffers from infection, makes isolation utterly impossible. No effort is made to avoid healthy people, and this state of things conduces largely to the spread of the Disease.



**DIPHTHERIA.** Of the six cases reported, three of them succumbed almost at once, and the remainder recovered so rapidly that no satisfactory opportunity was afforded to verify the true nature of the complaint. One case occurred at Oxhill in February, one at South Moor in March, one in October at Kyo, two in November at Red Row Oxhill, and Front Street, Stanley respectively, and one in December at Front Street Stanley. The most careful investigation failed to throw light upon the origin of any of the cases, and the fact that notwithstanding the acute infectiveness of Diphtheria, no second case followed, although both adults and children were occupying the same room which makes the matter of infection somewhat doubtful.

**CROUP.** The number of deaths returned was one more than the cases notified. The remarks upon Diphtheria, with regard to infection, will equally apply to Croup.

**ENTERIC or TYPHOID FEVER.** Eight cases of this malady were recorded. The localities where they appeared with their dates of occurrence, were as follows, viz: One case at the Brick Rows, Havanna, and one at Shield Row, in the month of January, one at the first-mentioned place in February, one at Murray Street, Stanley, in April, one at South Moor, in September, one at the Brick Rows, Havanna, and another at Towneley Street, Stanley, in November, and one at Brick Rows, in December. Excluding those cases in the Brick Rows, Havanna, referred to presently, nothing definite was discovered to account for the origin of any one of them; on the other hand the January and February cases at the Brick Rows were merely a continuation of an outbreak that prevailed during the closing months of the previous year, and most probably from the same source those of November and December originated. An interval of eight months appear a long period for infection to be retained, but its existence either in an active or passive state depends greatly upon its surrounding conditions. The large open uncemented privy-middens are in my opinion very likely receptacles to preserve the Typhoid microbe. Thorough cleansing and disinfecting may not always be a remedy, as the ooze percolating from



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them into the sub-soil carries the germs, and the said sub-soil has been found to be a good preserving ground.

**ERYSIPELAS.** All cases were solitary ones. Four might come under the heading infectious; the others were unimportant.

**PUERPERAL FEVER.** Any febrile state after child-birth where death is foreshadowed is usually returned as this Fever.

**CONTINUED FEVER.** The one case was probably a mild form of Typhoid Fever. The same measures of precaution were adopted.

**MEASLES** invaded the district on two occasions, the first time in June, and the second in October. The June outbreak was not unexpected as the disease had been prevalent in the adjoining district some weeks before it crossed the border. The number reached to 120 covering a large area, and ceasing in August. The October invasion was confined to South Moor, and about a dozen cases ended the attack.

**WHOOPING COUGH.** In January a family having three children suffering from Whooping Cough, arrived in Stanley, and in March another case was imported into Greenland. Complete isolation was managed satisfactorily in both instances. The Disease appeared again at Oxhill in April, and about Thirty cases subsequently came under notice before it disappeared in June.

**DIARRHŒA.** A few cases of an ordinary kind were reported. No death resulted.

Two patients suffering from Enteric Fever were removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

Your Inspector is always ready to provide disinfectants in cases of infectious disease, and they have been used many times very beneficially, but no effectual system of disinfection with fumigation can be carried out in ordinary dwelling-houses, owing to the want of suitable accommodation for the inmates during the process.



# Vital Statistics.

The number of births registered during the year amounted to 417, and the deaths to 213, (including residents dying at the Workhouse and Infectious Hospital).

The births are 44 more, and the deaths 2 less than the previous year. The birth-rate is equal to an annual ratio of 38 per 1000, and the death-rate to 19, estimating the population at 11,000. Deaths from Infectious Diseases were 49, being 34 above the year 1895, and equal to 23 per cent of the whole. Infantile mortality continues high, no less than 78 deaths were under the age of one year, over a third of the whole, and by adding 42 the number between one and five years it will be seen that half the deaths take place under their fifth year. On this occasion Infectious Diseases play a conspicuous part. The number of deaths from the various kinds amounting to 37.

## Inspector's Department.

Building operations have been pretty active. Eighty new houses, with modern sanitary requirements, were built and occupied during the year. Sixteen houses situated at Shield Row, Stanley and Havanna, under closing orders in 1895, were vacated in the beginning of the year. Ten of them have been permanently closed, and the remaining six will not be re-occupied until the owners complete the necessary repairs to put them into a habitable condition. There are several back-to-back houses, and a number with no through ventilation, but they are less objectionable to my mind than those having unceiled bed-rooms. There are 188 houses of the last-mentioned, and their localities are Kyo, Red Row and Engine Row, Oxhill, Old South Moor Barracks, Quaken Houses, Havanna and High Stanley. The whole of the above were built prior to any authority having control,





but within a comparatively recent date, something like 88 of them have been raised and re-roofed, and allowed to be occupied in the condition already described.

The owners of Six Cottages have received notice to repair and make some structural changes to their unsanitary property. If not complied with closing orders will be obtained. The Low Rows at South Moor, consisting of twenty houses, are first on the list for improvement. Twelve additional out-offices have been built to old property at Joicey's Square and High Stanley, and the whole connected to forty houses at Havanna have been re-built to approval. There remains a considerable number of unpleasant uncovered privy-middens that might be improved by instalments if not otherwise. The whole of South Moor district is both sewered and drained, and it only requires an extension of the outfall works to make the sewage arrangements complete. East Stanley is effectually drained, and also High Stanley, Brick Rows, Havanna and Louisa Terrace. Joicey's Square, will follow shortly. New sewers will be required to the remaining portions of the district on the selection of a site or sites for the sewage disposal.

The removal of refuse has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner.

Slaughter-houses are kept in excellent order, the same may be said of the Bake-houses.

Dairies and Cowsheds, to the number of twenty, were visited and found satisfactory. The two licensed Lodging-houses were frequently visited and found as clean and orderly as could be expected from a congregation of all sorts and conditions of occupants.

No prosecution was necessary under the Food and Drugs Act. The water supply is both good and abundant.

Many verbal, written and formal notices for the removal of nuisances, repairs, &c. have kept your Inspector busy, and it is only fair to state that the notices were invariably promptly attended to.

The annexed Schedules give further particulars regarding population, births, deaths, and sickness, from Zymotic Diseases.

I remain, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

**T. BENSON,** MEDICAL OFFICER.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
STANLEY.



# Table of Deaths,

Classified according to Diseases and Ages.



					UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.	FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND UPWARDS.
Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	6	6
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2	1
Membranous Croup		...	...	...	4	2
Enteric or Typhoid Fever			....	...	1	2
Puerperal Fever...		...	...	...	0	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	18	0
Whooping Cough		...	..	...	6	0
Rheumatic Fever		...	...	...	0	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	....	1	13
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Plurisy			....	...	11	12
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	0	15
Injuries	...	...	...	...	0	3
All other Diseases		...	...	....	71	37
					—	—
					120	93
					—	—

Under One Year old	...	....	...	78
One and under Five	...	...	...	42
Five and under Fifteen	...	...	...	15
Fifteen and under Twenty-five		...	....	12
Twenty-five and under Sixty-five		...	....	44
Sixty-five and upwards	...	...	...	22

Total 213









STANLEY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

STANLEY.

JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>. 1897.

T. J. JACKSON, PRINTER, FRONT STREET, STANLEY.